Support Sheffield Students at Risk of Detention and Deportation

POLICY RESPONSIBILITY: International Students’ Officer
CONTACT: international.officer@sheffield.ac.uk

Sheffield Students’ Union notes:

1. Nationwide, students have successfully intervened in the detention and deportation of students by crowdfunding legal support and pressuring the Home Office.
2. In 2015, 40,896 people were deported from the UK; recently, the publicly opposed attempt to deport Bangor student Shiromini Satkunarajah demonstrated that many deportees are international/migrant students.

Sheffield Students’ Union believes:

1. There is a lack of institutional support and procedure for intervening in the detentions/deportations of students.
2. With our duty of care towards all students, setting a precedent to defend students at risk of detention and deportation is essential.
3. Every student should have the right to remain in the UK regardless of academic or career prospects.

Sheffield Students’ Union resolves:

1. To visit Sheffield students detained and threatened with deportation and provide pastoral support.
2. To lead public advocacy for detainees by contacting media, disseminating information on social media, and mobilising students.
3. To prepare a document containing legal/practical information for students facing detention/deportation.
4. To develop/circulate a toolkit for students offering information on assisting and intervening in detentions/deportations.
5. To lobby the University to provide formal and public support to those students by arranging/subsidising their legal support and contacting the Home Office.
6. To lobby the University to implement a policy to protect students who are detained and threatened with deportation.

POLICY HISTORY:

The original was approved by Students’ Union Council in March 2017.

This policy is next due for review in November 2019.